



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

P.O.Box 96456
Washington, DC
20090-6456

SEP 15 2000

NOTICE TO THE TRADE
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Electronic Submission of Bids

The purpose of this Notice is to inform vendors that bids submitted in response to most Fruit and Vegetable Program (F&V) **Invitations issued after October 1, 2000**, may be transmitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) via the Internet. Only those vendors with a valid logon ID and password will be allowed access to the DEBES system.

Announcements in the 200 number series (FV200, FV201, etc.) have been amended to provide for the electronic submission of bids. The Amendments are available at the Commodity Procurement Home Page on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>. **Invitations issued under Announcements in the 100 number series (FV108, FV109, etc.) will continue to receive bids only by fax, mail, or hand delivery.** In summary, the Amendments include the following:

1. Information on submitting bids electronically and requesting a logon ID.
 - a. Internet browser requirements
 - b. Form for requesting a DEBES Logon ID
 - c. Form for requesting additions/changes to plants and shipping points.
 - d. Sample of electronically submitted bid
2. Change in the closing time for all bid submissions (electronic, fax, mail, or hand delivery) from Washington, D.C. (Eastern) time to **CENTRAL TIME**.
3. Change in the items required on offers submitted in response to **Invitations issued after October 1, 2000**.
 - a. Elimination of gross weight.
 - b. Addition of SF129 certification.
 - c. Elimination of constraints by shipping point.

Vendors who wish to bid electronically must request a Logon ID and should update their plant and shipping point information. In the DEBES system, a vendor's plant and shipping point information will display from a database for selection to enter bid data. The completed forms may be faxed or mailed to the Commodity Procurement Branch, USDA, AMS, F&V, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 2546-South, Washington, D.C. 20250-0239 (Fax: 202-720-2782).

Two DEBES Internet sites will be available to vendors - Practice and Production. The **Practice** site (<https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?>) consists of sample invitations for vendors to become familiar with the DEBES system. The bid data entered at the Practice site will not be opened by USDA. A practice script has been prepared to help guide vendors through the process of creating, modifying, and submitting bids. The script is available on the Internet under the What's New section (by F&V commodity group) of the Commodity Procurement Home Page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>. The **Production** site (<http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes> which translates into <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>) will be used for bid entry for actual Fruit and Vegetable purchases. To access the Web sites, vendors will need an Internet provider and browser (Netscape 4.07 or Internet Explorer 5.00) that uses 128-bit key encryption.



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Vendors previously assigned DEBES Logon ID's and passwords for the Practice environment will be added to the DEBES Production environment on October 2, 2000, using the same assigned Logon ID's and passwords. Vendors should change the USDA assigned passwords as soon as possible.

Initially, vendors may wish to fax bids in addition to submitting electronically through DEBES.

Please contact Linda Hinkle (telephone: 202-720-4518) with questions concerning the DEBES system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Proden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Proden" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Proden
Contracting Officer
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs



SEP 15 2000

United States
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Agriculture

ANNOUNCEMENT FV-202

Marketing and
Regulatory
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**PURCHASE OF CANNED VEGETABLES
FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ELIGIBLE OUTLETS**

AMENDMENT NO. 1

P.O.Box 96456
Washington, DC
20090-6456

This amendment is being issued to (1) include the **electronic submission of offers** through the **Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES)** via the Internet, (2) change the bid closing time from Washington, D.C. (Eastern) time to **CENTRAL TIME**, (3) remove the option of specifying maximum units by shipping point on offers, and (4) remove the requirement of providing the gross weight on offers. Offers may still be submitted by mail, facsimile (FAX) or hand delivery. Please note, all bids submitted electronically or otherwise must be submitted by the CENTRAL TIME and the date specified in the Invitation.

Section II.A. Where and When to Submit Offers is hereby amended to include the following information which provides for the electronic submission of offers through DEBES.

Browser requirements for DEBES for electronic bidding are described in Attachment 1. To submit bids electronically through DEBES; an offeror must request a login ID in order to access the web site. See Attachment 3 to request a logon ID. If offeror is concerned about electronic bid receipt, offeror may also FAX bid.

- (a) For bids submitted electronically, access the DEBES production web site at:

<http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes>

This translates into a connection of
<https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>

Once connected to DEBES, follow the online procedures. Click on the "Help" button" for detailed instructions on using the system or call 202-270-4517 for assistance.

See Attachment 2 for sample of bid submitted through DEBES.

- (b) AMS will not be responsible for any failure attributed to the transmission of the bid data prior to being accepted and stored on our web server including, but not limited, to the following:
1. Any failure of the offeror's computer hardware or software.
 2. Availability of your Internet service provider.
 3. Delay in transmission due to the speed of your modem.
 4. Delay in transmission due to excessive volume of Internet traffic.



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In the event of problems submitting bids electronically, offers should be FAXED prior to bid closing.

Section II.A. Where and When to Submit Offers is hereby further amended to change the first sentence of the last paragraph to read as follows:

Offers, modifications, or withdrawals of offers under this Announcement must be received into either the DEBES lockbox or be received by the USDA mailroom, the Contracting Officer of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, or the USDA-AMS-NTS Communications Center not later than the **Central Time** and the date specified in the Invitation.

Section II.B. What to Submit is hereby amended to include the following information for bids submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry system (DEBES).

Offers submitted through DEBES must include the following:

1. Answers to all certification questions.
2. Bid prices for as many item numbers as desired.
3. Constraints according to the following amended Item 4 of Section II.B. of Announcement. At least one constraint must be entered before a bid can be submitted via the DEBES system.

In the DEBES system, a vendor's plant and shipping point information will display from a database for selection to enter bid data. Therefore, vendor must notify USDA of plant and shipping point additions or changes in sufficient time for USDA to update the database. Attachment 4 may be used to request vendor address additions or changes.

Section II.B. What to Submit is hereby further amended to change Item 4 for all methods of bid submissions to read as follows:

4. (a) The maximum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type (if applicable) offeror is willing to sell for each delivery period, or combination of delivery periods. The maximum number of units may be different for each delivery period, if desired.
- (b) The maximum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type (if applicable), or combination of commodity types, offeror is willing to sell for the entire Invitation.
- (c) The minimum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type offeror is willing to sell for the entire Invitation. The minimum permitted for each commodity type shall not exceed 3 purchase units unless specified differently in the Invitation.

Notes:

If the maximum number of units offered for the delivery period(s) and/or the entire Invitation is not quoted, AMS may award up to the maximum demand for each item offered.

Vendors may specify a maximum number of units offered for each commodity type (if applicable) and plant, or combination of plants, if more than one plant will be used.

Maximum quantity offered may be greater than the demand shown on the Invitation.

Section II.B. What to Submit is further amended to replace Item 8 (gross weight per carton) with a new Item 8 requiring certification as to the accuracy of the SF-129. This change is applicable to all methods of bid submissions. Item 8 is changed to read as follows:

8. Offeror (DOES) (DOES NOT) certify that the SF-129 on file with the contracting officer is accurate and part of this offer.

Exhibit C - Sample Format for Submitting Offers is hereby amended as follows:

Item 4 - 'Shipping Point 1' is changed to 'Plant 1' and 'Shipping Point 2' is changed to 'Plant 2' to reflect maximum units specified by plant instead of by shipping point.

Item 8 - is changed to 'Does' to reflect the replacing of the gross weight under Item 8 with SF-129 certification.

This amendment is effective with Invitations issued after October 1, 2000.

All other terms and conditions of Announcement FV-202 remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Proden", written in a cursive style.

Susan E. Proden
Contracting Officer
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Program

Browser Requirements

Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES)

Netscape 4.07 or above
Internet Explorer 5.0 or above

The browser you choose must be capable of handling 128 bit encryption.

In IE this can be determined by going to **Help/About Internet Explorer** and the display will have '**Cipher Strength: 128-bit**' somewhere on it. If it does not you will need to download a new version of the browser from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com>.

In Netscape this can be determined by going to **Help/About Communicator** and the display will show the following somewhere on it.

This version supports U.S. security with
RSA Public Key Cryptography, MD2, MD5,
RC2-CBC, RC4, DES-CBC,
DES-EDE3-CBC .

If it does not, you will need to download a new version of the browser from Netscape at <http://home.netscape.com/download/index.html?cp=djucce4>. Choose the 128 bit Strong Encryption* version for your download.

The Practice Test site is [https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?](https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe)

The Production site is <http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes> . This will translate into a connection of [https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?](https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe)

DEBES is best viewed on a desktop area of 800 x 600 pixels with small fonts. You will find settings for screen resolution under your PC's Control Panel, Display.

Proxy Servers

Most connection problems are the result of improper browser version, not using 128 bit encryption, and connecting through your corporate proxy server. The proxy server must be set up to allow HTTPS protocol through the appropriate port; Practice Test is port 3050 and production will be 3077.

Submitted at: 7/24/2000 - 8:33:05 am Central Time

ATTACHMENT 2

DEBES-FRUIT & VEG TEST CO.
14TH & INDEPENDENCE AVE
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101-0000

Sample of Electronically Submitted Offer

FV702 /003 , CND VEGETABLES-DEBES TEST

Plant 02-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CO. , 13000 PARIS BLVD , ROCHESTER , NY						
Shipping Point 01-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CO. , 13000 PARIS BLVD , ROCHESTER , NY						
BEANS, GREEN, CANNED -						
Line Item	Pack Size	Destination	Delivery Period	Est. CSE	Price/CSE	Trans Mode
030	6#10 CAN	NORTH EAST , PA	02/01/2000 - 02/15/2000	912	9.8500	
031	6#10 CAN	MARTINSBURG , WV	02/01/2000 - 02/15/2000	912	9.9500	
037	6#10 CAN	LOWELL , MA	02/16/2000 - 02/29/2000	912	10.1800	Truck
038	6#10 CAN	ROCKVILLE , MD	02/16/2000 - 02/29/2000	912	10.0400	
039	6#10 CAN	MARTINSBURG , WV	02/16/2000 - 02/29/2000	912	9.9500	

High Bid Price: 10.1800 Line Item: 037

Low Bid Price: 9.8500 Line Item: 030

Sum of Bid Prices: 49.9700

Plant 04-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEG TEST CO. , 300 22ND STREET , CHASKA , MN						
Shipping Point 01-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CO , 4825 WEST 3RD AVENUE , ARLINGTON , MN						
PEAS, CANNED -						
Line Item	Pack Size	Destination	Delivery Period	Est. CSE	Price/CSE	Trans Mode
063	6#10 CAN	KNOXVILLE , TN	02/01/2000 - 02/15/2000	2736	17.2500	
065	6#10 CAN	NASHVILLE , TN	02/01/2000 - 02/15/2000	4560	17.5000	
096	6#10 CAN	KNOXVILLE , TN	03/01/2000 - 03/15/2000	1824	17.2500	
098	6#10 CAN	WESTFIELD , WI	03/01/2000 - 03/15/2000	9120	15.7000	Truck

High Bid Price: 17.5000 Line Item: 065

Low Bid Price: 15.7000 Line Item: 098

Sum of Bid Prices: 67.7000

Constraints						
Const #	Min Qty	Max Qty	Plant Location	Shipping Period	Product	
1		2	02-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CO.	Apply to EACH Shipping Period	BEANS, GREEN, CANNED , 6#10 CAN	
2		4	04-DEBES-FRUIT AND VEG TEST CO.	Apply to EACH Shipping Period	PEAS, CANNED , 6#10 CAN	
3		3	Total for ALL Plants	Total for ALL Shipping Periods	BEANS, GREEN, CANNED , 6#10 CAN	
4		6	Total for ALL Plants	Total for ALL Shipping Periods	PEAS, CANNED , 6#10 CAN	

Certifications

For this bid your company is designated as: SMALL BUSINESS

Question	Answer
01) Offeror certifies that the offer is made subject to Announcement FV702; the Commodity Specification for Canned Vegetables dated 5/1/1999; Invitation No. 3; and USDA-1, Rev. #2, Amend 1 (Oct 1990), Amend 2 (Nov. 1990), Amend 3 (Aug. 1989), and Amend 4 (March 1990)	Yes
02A) Offeror certifies that annual representations, certifications, and warranties (Appendix 1) are current, accurate and complete.	Yes
02B) Enter date that Appendix 1 was submitted to Contracting Officer	07/01/2000
02C) If Appendix 1 has been amended, enter all dates of amendments; if no amendments enter N/A.	N/A
03) All product required under any existing USDA contracts or subcontracts with a Not Later Than Date prior to this bid opening has been shipped/delivered?	Has
04) Enter Name, Title, and Telephone number of person submitting the offer on behalf of offeror. The person submitting the bid must be an officer or representative authorized to sign an offer as evidenced by the SF129 filed with the Contracting Officer. (See article 6 of USDA-1 prior to submitting offer).	John L. Smith, President 202-447-1111
05) Offeror certifies that SF129 is accurate and part of this offer	Yes
06) Please Note: Minimum constraints permitted on this invitation are as follows: Salsa - 6/10's (1-3 units). No minimum constraint is permitted for other products on this Invitation.	

High Bid Price: 17.5000 Plant: 04 Shipping Point: 01 Line Item: 065

Low Bid Price: 9.8500 Plant: 02 Shipping Point: 01 Line Item: 030

Sum of Bid Prices: 117.6700

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS
VENDOR REQUEST FOR LOGON IDENTIFICATION (ID) AND PASSWORD
DOMESTIC ELECTRONIC BID ENTRY SYSTEM (DEBES)

LOGON ID REQUESTED FOR: PRACTICE () PRODUCTION () BOTH ()					
1. Company Information					
Company Name			Agent Name (if applicable) - Separate ID's and letters of agency authorization are required for each company for which bids are submitted.		
Street Address			Street Address		
City	State	Zip Code	City	State	Zip Code
Person to receive Vendor ID and password			Person to receive Agent ID and password		
Method to receive Vendor ID and password: (Complete one)			Method to receive Agent ID and password: (Complete one)		
Telephone:			Telephone:		
Fax:			Fax:		
E-Mail			E-Mail		
Mail (Address)			Mail (Address)		
5-8 digit alpha/numeric personal code: (This code will be used to verify any vendor request to reset a password)			5-8 digit alpha/numeric personal code: (This code will be used to verify any agent request to reset a password)		

2. Name and Title of Person Requesting Vendor ID () or Agent ID ():
 (Must be authorized on SF-129 to sign bids)

Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Telephone Number _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY USDA:

VENDOR/AGENT ID ("A" and 6 digits):	PASSWORD (must change at first logon):
USDA Marketing Specialist: _____ Date: _____	

Revision No. 1 - Date: 8/22/2000

PLEASE FAX TO: Linda Hinkle, Commodity Procurement Branch, F&V Programs 202-720-2782

USDA Mktg Spec ()

VENDOR NAME AND ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR F&V COMMODITY PURCHASES**PART 1 - VENDOR ADDRESS (Contracts will be awarded to and mailed to address provided)**

Company Name			USDA	Agent Name (if applicable)			USDA
Street Address				Street Address			
P.O. Box				P.O. Box			
City	ST	ZIP		City	ST	ZIP	
Contact	Phone			Contact	Phone		
	Fax				Fax		
E-Mail of Contact				E-Mail of Contact			
Taxpayer Identification No. (TIN #)							

PART II - PLANT ADDRESS

(If Vendor address is same for plant write "Same")

PART III - PLANT'S SHIPPING POINT ADDRESS

(If Plant address is same for shipping, write "Same")

Company Name			USDA	Company Name			USDA
Street Address				Street Address			
P.O. Box				P.O. Box			
City	ST	ZIP		City	ST	ZIP	
Contact	Phone			Contact	Phone		
	Fax				Fax		

PART IV - VENDOR NOTICE TO DELIVER**PAYMENT DISBURSEMENT STATEMENT ADDRESS ***

Company Name			Vendor [] Plant [] Other [] If Other, Company Name		
Mailing Address			Mailing Address		
City	ST	ZIP	City	ST	ZIP
Attention :			*Payments to Vendors must be made electronically. To set up electronic transfer, contact the Kansas City Mgmt. Office (816/926-6988) ACH [] In Process []		

Signature and Title (Authorized Company Representative)

Date:

Send to Contracting Officer, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA: FAX 202-720-2782

IF USING MULTIPLE PLANTS AND SHIPPING POINTS, PLEASE COMPLETE SEPARATE SHEET FOR EACH

8/22/2000

Page ____ of ____ Pages